

From Mary Parker
Oct 8th 1869

Reading Oct 8th 1869

Can my dear Harriet recollect the
hand writing of one, whom she once address'd by the endearing
title of friend; or has a separation of three years obliterated
that friend from her remembrance? Though that be the
case, yet be assured, neither time nor absence have abated my
affection, and frequently do I recal to memory the many plea-
sing hours we have spent in each others society, while in
Bradford. How pleasant was it then to pursue together the
same studies, and range the pleasing paths of literature!
I am convinced that the happiest part of my life was spent
in the pursuit of knowledge, and the recollection of that por-
-tion of time which I spent with you, is intermingled with
most agreeable sensations. One of our Instructors, your much
loved and ever lamented Cousin, has alas! paid the debt of nature.
What a loss to her Parents, Husband, & Friends. For myself,
I shall ever regret her untimely fate, and cherish her memory
with affection Pardon me, my dear, for recalling to remembrance
griefs long past, may my own feelings plead my excuse.

Rec'd by Mr. Nichols.

Mary Parker

Miss Harriet Chapman

Winchester Maine

Have you not as yet paid your vows at the altar of Hy-men?
be honest Harriet. I have heard that Miss Payson was solic-
ited in marriage by a certain gentleman, and now frankly
acknowledge if you are the identical person. Your happiness
will ever be among my best wishes, and in choosing a partner
I hope your choice ^{will} be directed by wisdom. You will smile, no
doubt at the advice of so young a mistress, but recollect that
in friendship there should be no reserve. — — — — —

I shall send this by Mr. Nichols, and hope soon to receive
an answer for it. It is my earnest wish that this correspondence
so hastily commenced may be lasting, and the means of
reviving and strengthening that friendship which formerly
subsisted between us. Do not observe ceremony it is incom-
-patible with true affection but prove by frequently writing
that the love of Harriet Payson is not less sincere than
that of her truly Affectionate

Mary Parker

Miss Harriet Payson